

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

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US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Foundation Wins Grant for Battlefield

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that the Palmetto Conservation Foundation has been awarded a \$25,000 grant for its Battle of Camden preservation plan. Spratt had urged the National Park Service to approve the grant.

“This site has been identified for several years by the National Park Service as a historically significant area in serious danger of development, Spratt said. “A coalition of 25 agencies in South Carolina is working on the preservation and interpretation of this important Revolutionary War battlefield, and this grant will greatly aid in their efforts.”

The Battle of Camden site, which covers approximately 1300 acres, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1962, but little work was done on it until the last two years. The coalition, with the Palmetto Conservation Foundation as the lead agency, recently completed 18 months of strategic planning and developed a comprehensive plan for the site. In December 2002, the Foundation purchased 310 acres in the core of the battlefield for \$325,000 on behalf of the coalition.

“This grant,” said Spratt “is critical for taking the next steps, including security, protection, and interpretation of the newly acquired land. Most pressing is the acquisition of an additional 700 acres that contains the remainder of the core of the battlefield. Most of this land is now on the market, but the planned use of the land is rapidly changing from forestry production to residential development. Quick action is needed to preserve this historical treasure.”

Spratt also said he was developing legislation to make the battlefield a national park.

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